

312 Seventh St., NW (Commercial Building)  
Washington  
District of Columbia

HABS No. DC-494

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
334-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
334-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This late Nineteenth Century commercial building fully occupies its twenty foot by one hundred foot site on Seventh Street in Square 432. Its street (east) facade is flush with its contiguous neighbors, a one-story structure to the south and the four-story Morton's building to the north. The building is three stories on the eastern two-thirds of the site and one story at the west. A basement runs under the whole building. The roof slopes east to west. Wood joists span between the common-brick party walls.

Pronounced hoods over square headed window openings, an Italianate pressed metal cornice, and a high parapet with a central segmental pediment embellish the three bay pressed brick facade, which has been painted white. The more recent storefront is glass with slender metal frames, polished black stone base and a white-painted fascia and soffit. Its deep central entrance bay narrows in three zig-zag stages, suggesting Art Deco motifs. Common brick is used on the rear facade, in which two flat-arched openings on each upper floor contain double-hung wood windows. The back wall of the one-story portion has been stuccoed. A door in the small exposed portion of the north wall gives access to the public alley.

The ground floor, divided into a selling space and smaller back room, houses a shoe store. Remnants of a pressed metal ceiling are visible in the back room. The basement, formerly a part of the retail space of neighboring Morton's, has been vacant since the Kann's department store fire. Upper floors are currently inaccessible.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Seen from the north, the building helps maintain the rhythm and scale of the district and of Seventh Street in particular. Seen from the south and west, the structure and its neighbors stand awkwardly isolated in the new park created since the demolition of Kann's department store.

The building is an example of a straightforward Nineteenth Century commercial building embellished by the addition of a few prominent elements to its public facade. Those elements, in particular the very deep cornice, give this building its Italianate overtones.

ADDENDUM

312 Seventh St., NW (Commercial Bldg)  
Washington  
District of Columbia

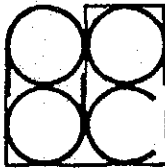
HABS No. DC-494

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

312 SEVENTH ST., NW (COMMERCIAL BLDG.)  
HABS No. DC-494 (Page 2)



**PENNSYLVANIA  
AVENUE  
DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

436 13TH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

#### GENERAL CONSULTANTS

ANDERSON NOTTER/MARIANI  
GENERAL PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT  
DEVROUX & FURNELL  
ASSOCIATE ARCHITECTS  
DAVID McLAREN HART & ASSOCIATES  
PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION CONSULTANT  
MONK DUNSTONE ASSOCIATES  
COST ESTIMATING CONSULTANT

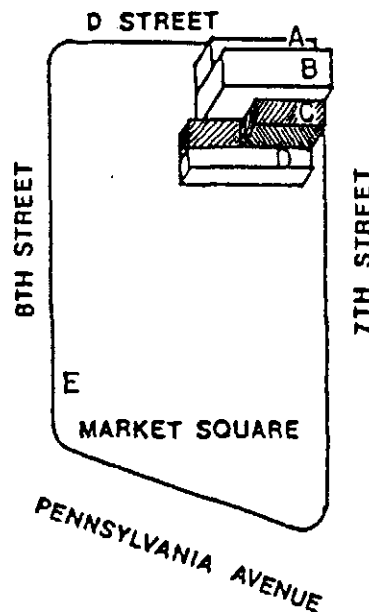
#### HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**BUILDING DOCUMENTATION  
CODE IDENTIFICATION MAP  
SQUARE 432**

This documentation was produced for mitigation purposes by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. Additional documentation exists for Square 432, within which this structure stands. For photographs, historical, and descriptive data on Square 432, see HABS No. DC-484.

For documentation of individual buildings within Square 432, see:

- |   |   |                 |
|---|---|-----------------|
| A | Riggs National Bank, 7th and D Streets Office, 318 7th Street | HABS No. DC-496 |
| B | 314-316 Seventh Street, NW (Morton's)                         | HABS No. DC-495 |
| C | 312 Seventh Street, NW (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)                  | HABS No. DC-494 |
| D | 310 Seventh Street, NW (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)                  | HABS No. DC-587 |
| E | Kann, S. and Sons, Market Space, between 7th and 8th Streets  | HABS No. DC-365 |



Addendum to

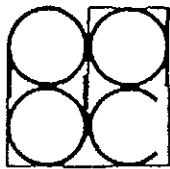
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425 13TH STREET, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

GENERAL CONSULTANTS

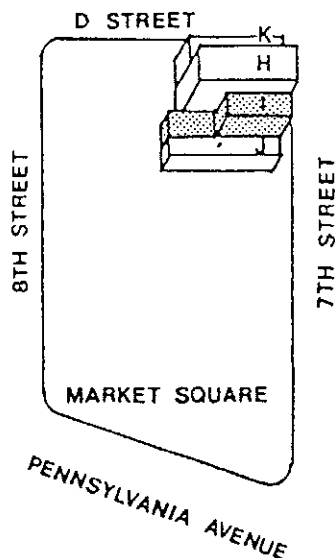
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

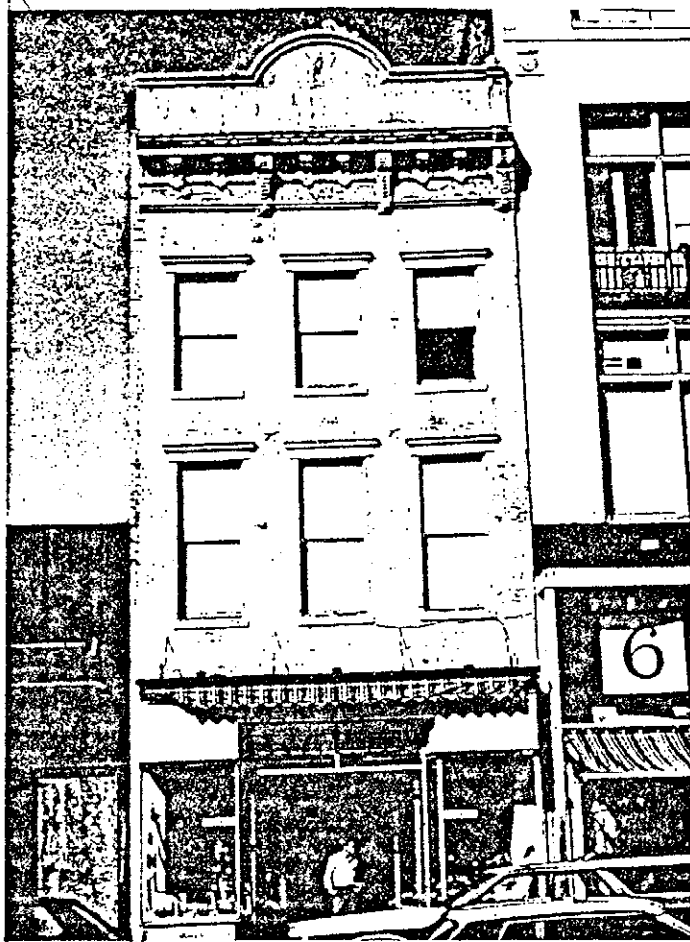
BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

HABS  
DC,  
WASH,  
334-

COMMERCIAL BUILDING  
312 SEVENTH STREET, NW  
LOT 811



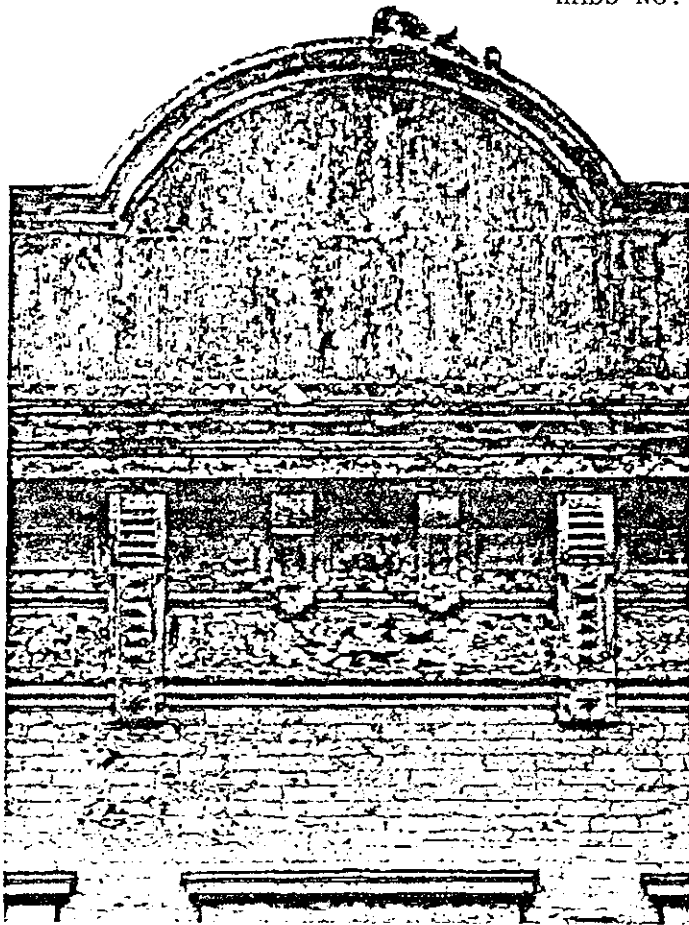
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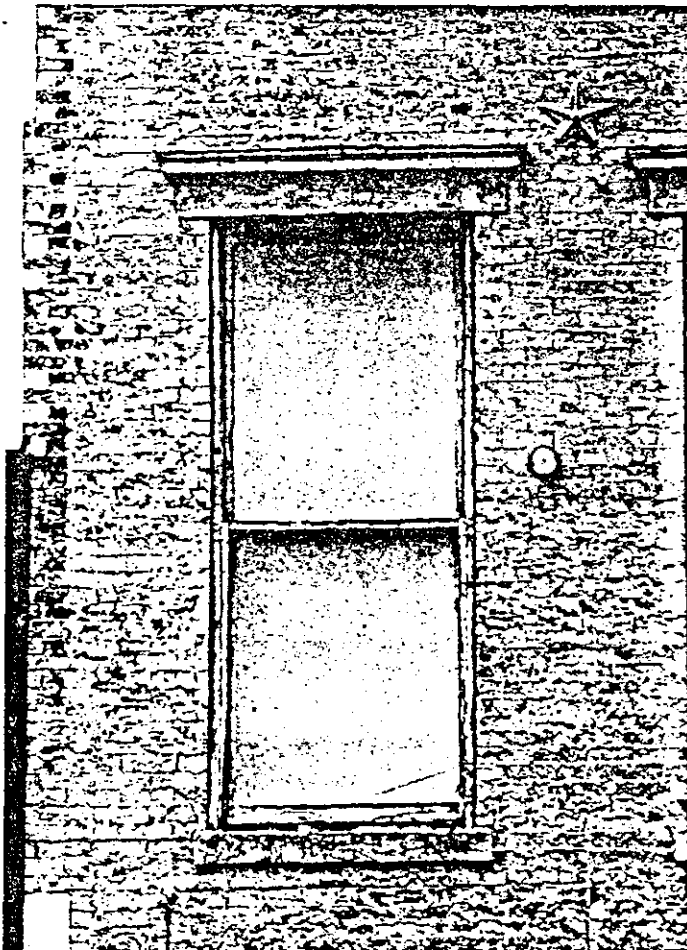
SEVENTH STREET  
(EAST) FACADE



EAST FACADE: STOREFRONT



EAST FACADE: DETAIL OF  
CORNICE AND PARAPET



EAST FACADE: DETAIL AT  
SECOND STORY WINDOW